GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1744
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
EXTENSION OF 3G MOBILE SERVICES
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the telecommunication facilities in the country especially in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend Third Generation (3G) Mobile services in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including West Bengal; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the telephone services in the rural areas of the country especially West Bengal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) Madam, the present status of telecommunication facilities in respect of BSNL in the country and in West Bengal/Kolkatta Telecom District is given in Annexure-I.

The present status of telecom facility of MTNL as on January 2010 is given below:-

	Delhi	Mumbai
Fixed lines	1567096	2047452
GSM	2189841	2420486
CDMA (M)	112006	71903
Broadband	369342	414218
Internet	621010	871180

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. 3G services were started by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in few selected cities in February 2009. 850870 of 3G service subscribers are working in BSNL network as on 31.01.2010 including West Bengal. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide 3G services in total 760 cities in first phase covering all the district headquarters, commercially important towns and tourist places. BSNL has planned to complete this work by 2010-11. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has launched 3G services in 337 cities as on 23.02.2010 including 42 Cities/Towns covered with 3G services in West Bengal/Kolkatta Telecom District. It is given in Annexure-II. BSNL has planned to launch 3G services in Kharagpur and Darjeeling cities in West Bengal Circle by March 2010.

MTNL is providing 3G services over DOT-allotted spectrum for 3G services in its service areas i.e. Mumbai and Delhi to 193368 customers.

(d) Following steps are being taken by BSNL to strengthen the telephone services in rural areas in the country and West Bengal State-

1. BSNL has planned to add 5.4 million GSM connections in rural areas during 2009-10. Further BSNL has planned to cover the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years, subject to techno commercial viability.

2. BSNL has deployed WLL network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural areas.

3. Remote and far-flung areas, which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, are planned to be covered with digital satellite phone terminals.

4. Details of plan to strengthen the telephone services in West Bengal including rural areas is as per given in Annexure-I.

MTNL does not provide services in rural areas.